

**OPINIONS AND DECLARATIONS  
RENDERED BY THE INTER-  
NATIONAL COMMISSION ON  
ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE**

*Edited by*

**FRANCIS HEMMING, C.M.G., C.B.E.**

Secretary to the Commission

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**OPINION 272**

Designation, under the Plenary Powers, of a type species for the genus *Taenia* Linnaeus, 1758 (Class Cestoidea) in harmony with accustomed nomenclatorial usage (validation of an error in *Opinion 84*)

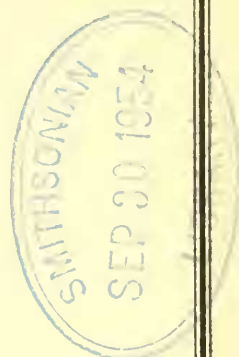
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# INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

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## OPINION 272

### DESIGNATION, UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS, OF A TYPE SPECIES FOR THE GENUS "TAENIA" LINNAEUS, 1758 (CLASS CESTOIDEA) IN HARMONY WITH ACCUSTOMED NOMENCLATORIAL USAGE (VALIDATION OF AN ERROR IN "OPINION" 84)

**RULING** :—(1) Under the Plenary Powers, all indications and selections of type species for the genus *Taenia* Linnaeus, 1758 (Class Cestoidea) made prior to the present Ruling are hereby set aside, and *Taenia solium* Linnaeus, 1758, is hereby designated as the type species of the above genus.

(2) It is hereby directed that the decision set out in (1) above is to be inserted in the entry relating to the generic name *Taenia* Linnaeus, 1758, in the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology*.

(3) The specific name *solium* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the combination *Taenia solium*, is hereby placed on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* as Name No. 95.

#### I.—THE STATEMENT OF THE CASE

When in 1943 Mr. Francis Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, was engaged in an examination of the older of the *Opinions* rendered by the Commission, for the purpose of extracting therefrom the particulars which would be needed for inclusion in the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* when published in book form, he found that the entry in that *List* in respect of the type species of the genus *Taenia* Linnaeus, 1758 (Class Cestoidea), made in *Opinion* 84 (1925, *Smithson. misc. Coll.* 73 (No. 3) : 11—12) was incorrect. For in that *Opinion* it was stated that the type species of this genus was *Taenia solium* Linnaeus, 1758, notwithstanding the fact that in the synonymy of *Taenia vulgaris* Linnaeus, 1758 (*Syst. Nat.*



(ed. 10) 1 : 820) Linnaeus cited the pre-1758 univocal tautonymous specific name "Taenia", thus making *Taenia vulgaris* Linnaeus the type species of the genus *Taenia* Linnaeus under the interpretation of Rule (d) in Article 30 of the *Règles* given in *Opinion* 16 (1910, *Smithson. Publ.* 1938 : 31—39). In view of the great importance in the literature of the name *Taenia* Linnaeus, Mr. Hemming judged it desirable that steps should be taken by the International Commission as soon as possible to validate the accustomed usage of this generic name. It appeared unlikely that a re-issue of *Opinion* 84 would be published for a considerable time, and it was accordingly decided that particulars of this case, together with proposals for remedial action, should be included in a Note to be attached to the re-issue of *Opinion* 16 then in preparation. The paper so prepared by Mr. Hemming was completed on 1st September 1945, when it was annexed to the re-issue of *Opinion* 16 as Note 7. This Note was as follows :—

**On an error, due to the non-observance of the provisions of "Opinion" 16, contained in the portion of "Opinion" 84, in which the name "Taenia" Linnaeus, 1758 (Class Cestoidea), was placed on the "Official List of Generic Names in Zoology" and on the remedial action proposed**

By FRANCIS HEMMING, C.M.G., C.B.E.

(Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature)

The problem of the generic name *Taenia* Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) 1 : 819, is essentially similar to that of the name *Echeneis* Linnaeus, 1758, discussed in the preceding NOTE<sup>1</sup>. In each case the generic name is expressly cited by the Commission in *Opinion* 16 as a name which *prima facie* falls within the ambit of that *Opinion* and therefore as the name of a genus, the type species of which is (and has been, under the *Règles Internationales*, since the date of its publication) automatically determined by absolute tautonymy under rule (d) in Article 30 of the *Règles*. In each case reference to the original description shows that a pre-1758 univocal specific name consisting of the same word as the generic name employed for the species by Linnaeus was cited by that author in the synonymy of one of the included species in his original description of the genus and therefore that the conditions laid down by the Commission in *Opinion* 16 apply absolutely to the generic name in question. In each case the Commission in a later *Opinion* placed the generic name in question on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* without

<sup>1</sup> See *Opinion* 242 (1954, *Ops. Decls. int. Comm. zool. Nomencl.* 5 : 23—44).

giving any consideration to the question of the applicability to the generic name of the provisions of *Opinion* 16, notwithstanding the fact that special attention had been drawn by it to that name in that *Opinion*. In each case the species cited as the type species of the genus in the *Opinion* placing the generic name on the *Official List* was not the species which under rule (d) in Article 30 of the *Règles*, as interpreted by *Opinion* 16, is automatically the type species of the genus by absolute tautonymy. In each case the *Opinion* in which the generic name was placed on the *Official List* was an *Opinion* rendered by the Commission under its ordinary powers and not under suspension of the *Règles*. Accordingly, in each case, the validity of the entries on the *Official List* there recorded depends solely upon those entries being in accordance with the provisions of the *Règles*. In each case (as shown above) the entry relating to the generic name in question does not comply with the provisions of the *Règles* and is, therefore, erroneous and invalid.<sup>2</sup> Thus, in each case immediate remedial action by the Commission is required in order to prevent confusion from arising.

2. The position as regards the generic name *Taenia* Linnaeus, 1758, is set out in the following paragraphs.

3. The genus *Taenia* was established by Linnaeus in 1758 with four included nominal species, namely :—

1. *Taenia solium* Linnaeus (: 819)
2. *Taenia vulgaris* Linnaeus (: 820)
3. *Taenia lata* Linnaeus (: 820)
4. *Taenia canina* Linnaeus (: 820)

4. In the synonymy of the second of the above species, *Taenia vulgaris* Linnaeus, 1758, the third and seventh entries are as follows :—

· · · · ·  
Schenk. obs. 111. p. 408. Taenia.

· · · · ·  
Bewerw. thes. 202. t. 202. f. Taenia.

5. The above citations by Linnaeus of the pre-1758 univocal specific name "Taenia" as a synonym of one of the originally included species (*Taenia vulgaris* Linnaeus, 1758) satisfies all the requirements laid down in *Opinion* 16. Accordingly, the species

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<sup>2</sup> Although, as stated, it was the case when this passage was written, that a name placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* immediately lost the protection afforded if it could be shown that the name was invalid or that its type species had been incorrectly determined, this is no longer so ; for in the interests of nomenclatorial stability the Thirteenth International Congress of Zoology inserted a provision in the *Règles* that in such a case a name once placed on the *Official List* is not to be rejected, unless and until, on the facts being placed before it, the International Commission so directs (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 4 : 268).

*Taenia vulgaris* Linnaeus, 1758, is the type species of the genus *Taenia* Linnaeus, 1758, by absolute tautonymy under rule (d) in Article 30 of the *Règles Internationales*, as interpreted by *Opinion* 16.

6. In *Opinion* 84 published in 1925,\* the Commission placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* the names of nine genera, of which the eighth was *Taenia* Linnaeus, 1758. This *Opinion* contained no discussion of the circumstances in which the cited species had become the type species of the genera concerned or any evidence that this matter had been investigated by the Commission after the proposal had been submitted to it for approval.† Particulars were, however, given in the *Opinion* of the steps which had been taken to bring to the attention of specialists the proposal that the names of the nine genera referred to above and of certain other allied genera should be added to the *Official List* and it was explained that every name to which any exception had been taken had been deleted from the list submitted for approval. Accordingly, the nine generic names included in *Opinion* 84, the sole survivors of this process of scrutiny, were the only names which all the specialists consulted were agreed in thinking it was desirable should be placed on the *Official List* with the species there specified as their type species. The evidence so summarised is of great importance as showing the widespread and universal desire of specialists that the name *Taenia* Linnaeus, 1758, should be placed on the *Official List* with *Taenia solium* Linnaeus, 1758, as type, but it throws no light whatever on the question whether in fact that species is the type species of the genus *Taenia* Linnaeus under the *Règles Internationales*.

7. The actual entry in *Opinion* 84 in regard to this generic name was as follows :—

*Taenia* Linnaeus, 1758a, 810—820, type *solium* (in *Homo* ; Europe).

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\* See 1925, *Smithson. misc. Coll.* 73 (3) : 11—12.

† The surviving records relating to *Opinion* 84 are preserved in the archives of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature in the series of records bound under the title “ *Correspondence relating to Opinions rendered* ”, volume 3 (*Opinions* 82—89). These records show that on 6th March 1916 a Circular Letter (C.L. 25) was issued by the Secretary to the Commission containing the draft of an *Opinion*, which then bore the number “ 68 ”. The first eight paragraphs of this draft *Opinion* were in exactly the same terms as the first eight paragraphs of *Opinion* 84 as finally adopted but the ninth paragraph contained proposals for the addition of 17 generic names to the *Official List*. The voting papers show that the admission of 8 of these names to the *Official List* was objected to by one or more members of the International Commission. Accordingly, at the close of the voting, the Secretary to the Commission withdrew the proposals in regard to these 8 names, thereby securing unanimity in the Commission in favour of the admission to the *Official List* of the remaining 9 names. The entries in the Circular Letter relating to these generic names were identical with those later published in *Opinion* 84. It is clear, therefore, that, when the Commission was invited to place the name *Taenia* Linnaeus, 1758, on the *Official List* with *Taenia solium* Linnaeus, 1758, as type, its attention was not drawn to the bearing of *Opinion* 16 on this problem.



8. Long before the publication of *Opinion* 84 in 1925, the species *Taenia solium* Linnaeus, 1758, was widely accepted as the type of the genus *Taenia* Linnaeus, 1758, that species having been so specified by Braun in 1900 (*in Bronn's Klassen u. Ordnungen des Thier-Reichs* 4 : 1720), when Braun wrote :—“ *Taenia* L. . . . Typische Art : *Taenia solium* L. ”

9. Nevertheless, as is now clear,\* the type of *Taenia* Linnaeus, 1758, is, and always has been, under the *Règles Internationales* the species *Taenia vulgaris* Linnaeus, 1758, by absolute tautonymy, for, as is expressly stated in the opening words to Article 30 of the *Règles Internationales*, the rules embodied in that Article are to be applied one after the other in the order of precedence there set out.† Accordingly, rule (d), under which *Taenia vulgaris* Linnaeus, 1758, is fixed as the type species of *Taenia* Linnaeus, 1758, by absolute tautonymy, takes precedence over rule (g) (type species by subsequent selection), under which *Taenia solium* Linnaeus, 1758, was selected as the type species of this genus by Braun in 1900 and Braun's action is therefore invalid, the type species of this genus having already been determined under rule (d).‡

10. The species *Taenia vulgaris* Linnaeus, 1758, is today identified with the third of the species placed in the genus *Taenia* by Linnaeus in 1758, namely *Taenia lata* Linnaeus, 1758, and is commonly referred to by the specific trivial name *lata* Linnaeus, 1758. This species has been widely referred to the genus *Dibothriocephalus* Luehe, 1899, *Verh. dtsh. zool. Ges.* (9) 1899 : 46, and accordingly treated of under the name *Dibothriocephalus latus* (Linnaeus, 1758).§ It has also been regarded as belonging to the genus *Diphyllobothrium* Cobbold, 1858, *Trans. linn. Soc. Lond.* 22 : 166 and treated of under the name *Diphyllobothrium latum* (Linnaeus, 1758).||

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\* See paragraph 5 of the present NOTE.

† The actual wording employed in the opening words of Article 30 of the *Règles Internationales* is as follows :—“ The designation of type species of genera shall be governed by the following rules ((a)—(g)), applied in the following order of precedence :—”

‡ Rule (g) in Article 30 contains the statement that a type selection made thereunder by a subsequent author “ is not subject to change ”, but it is hardly necessary to point out that this declaration applies only to the type species of genera, to which rule (g) is applicable, *i.e.*, to genera, the type species of which are not designated or indicated by any of the previous rules, *i.e.*, rules (a) to (f).

§ See Stiles & Hassall, 1912, *Bull. U.S. hyg. Lab.* 85 : 194 (*Index-Cat. med. vet. Zool.* (Cestoda & Cestodaria)).

|| *Teste* Baylis (H.A.) *in litt.* (25th May 1945).

11. The position is therefore as follows :—

- (i) that, if the *Règles Internationales* were to be strictly applied to the generic name *Taenia* Linnaeus, 1758, it would be necessary to transfer this generic name from *Taenia solium* Linnaeus, 1758, and allied species, now universally referred thereto, to *Taenia lata* Linnaeus, 1758, and allied species, which have become widely known under the generic name *Dibothriocephalus* Luehe, 1899 ; and
- (ii) to place *Taenia solium* Linnaeus, 1758, and its allies in a genus having some entirely unaccustomed name.

12. It cannot be doubted that confusion rather than uniformity would result from the transfer, on purely nomenclatorial grounds, of the generic name *Taenia* Linnaeus, 1758, from its accustomed position as the name of the genus for *Taenia solium* Linnaeus, 1758, to become the name of the genus hitherto known as *Dibothriocephalus* Luehe, 1899, or *Diphyllobothrium* Cobbold, 1858. Moreover, even if it could be shown that specialists in the systematics of the group concerned were in general willing to accept such a transformation of the meaning to be attached to the generic name *Taenia* Linnaeus, it would still be necessary for the International Commission to take into account wider aspects of the problem, for it is one which affects not only systematists but also, for example, the teachers of zoology, for the name *Taenia* Linnaeus as the generic name for the Common Tape-Worm of Man appears in every text-book of zoology.

13. When in 1913 the International Congress of Zoology conferred Plenary Powers upon the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature to suspend the *Règles Internationales* as applied to any given case, where, in the judgment of the Commission, the strict application of the *Règles* as applied to that case, would clearly result in greater confusion than uniformity, they expressly stated in Article 3 of the Plenary Powers Resolution\* that the authority which they then conferred upon the Commission “refers in the first instance and especially to . . . the transference of names from one genus or species to another.”

14. For the foregoing reasons, it seems plain that the proper course is for the International Commission now to make use of its Plenary Powers to suspend the *Règles* for *Taenia* Linnaeus, 1758, for the purpose of fixing irrevocably the species *Taenia solium* Linnaeus, 1758, as the type species of this genus, thereby (i) preventing the confusion which would arise from the strict application of the *Règles Internationales* to this case, and (ii) giving valid force to the portion of *Opinion* 84, in which the name *Taenia* Linnaeus, 1758, was added to the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* with *Taenia solium* Linnaeus, 1758, as its type species.

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\* See *Declaration 5* (1943, *Opinions and Declarations rendered by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature* 1 : 31—40).



## II.—THE SUBSEQUENT HISTORY OF THE CASE

2. At the time of its receipt, the present application was registered under the Number Z.N.(G.) 24, the File concerned with matters relating to the re-issue of the older *Opinions*, for it was in the course of the preparation of the re-issue of *Opinion* 16 that Mr. Hemming was prompted to submit the present application. Later, however, it was considered that it would be more convenient if this application were to be separately registered, and it was thereupon given the Number Z.N.(S.) 346.

3. The re-issue of *Opinion* 16, Note 7 to which was concerned with the problem dealt with in the present *Opinion*, was sent to the printer on 24th February 1946, but owing to difficulties arising from paper rationing, shortage of labour at the printing works and similar causes, publication did not actually take place until 28th February 1947 (*Ops. Decls. int. Comm. zool. Nomencl.* 1 : 255—304). The publication of this re-issue elicited no objection to the proposal that the International Commission should use its Plenary Powers for the purpose of validating the Ruling in *Opinion* 84 that *Taenia solium* Linnaeus, 1758, was the type species of the genus *Taenia* Linnaeus, 1758.

4. At Paris in 1948 the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature suspended its By-Laws for the duration of that Session (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 4 : 7—8), and it was in virtue of that decision that the present case was brought before the Commission later during that Session.

## III.—THE DECISION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

5. At an early stage of its Session held in Paris in 1948 the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature (as has been explained in *Opinion* 271, paragraph 4) had before it proposals for the incorporation in the *Règles* of the interpretation of Rule (d) in Article 30 given in *Opinion* 16, and subject to certain clarifications on questions of detail adopted a recommendation to the Thirteenth International Congress of Zoology in favour of the

course so proposed (Paris Session, 6th Meeting, Conclusion 30) (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 4 : 154—155). The effect on the present case of the foregoing decision was to confirm the deduction drawn from *Opinion* 16 that under Rule (d) in Article 30 the type species of the genus *Taenia* Linnaeus, 1758, was *Taenia vulgaris* Linnaeus, 1758, and not *Taenia solium* Linnaeus, 1758, the species habitually accepted as such. It was in the light of the foregoing decision on the question of principle involved that the present application was considered by the International Commission at a later stage of its Paris Session.

6. The present application was considered by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature at the Fourteenth Meeting of its Paris Session held at the Sorbonne in the Amphithéâtre Louis-Liard on Monday, 26th July 1948 at 2030 hours. The following is an extract from the Official Record of the Proceedings of the International Commission at the foregoing meeting, setting out the decision then reached by it in this case (Paris Session, 14th Meeting, Conclusion 55) (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 4 : 584—586) :—

THE COMMISSION agreed :—

(1) to use their Plenary Powers :—

(a) to set aside the indication of *Taenia vulgaris* Linnaeus, 1758, as the type species of the genus *Taenia* Linnaeus, 1758, by absolute tautonymy, and also all selections of that or other species to be the type species of this genus, made prior to the present decision ;

(b) to designate *Taenia solium* Linnaeus, 1758, to be the type species of the genus *Taenia* Linnaeus, 1758 ;

(2) to insert in the entry in the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* relating to the generic name *Taenia* Linnaeus, 1758, a note stating that the species *Taenia solium* Linnaeus, 1758, was the type species of the foregoing genus by designation by the Commission under their Plenary Powers ;

- (3) to place the trivial name *solium* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the binominal combination *Taenia solium*, on the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology* ;
- (4) to render an *Opinion*, supplementary to *Opinion* 84, drawing attention to the error contained therein as respects the generic name *Taenia* Linnaeus, 1758, and recording the decisions specified in (1) to (3) above.

7. The following are the original references for the names which appear in the decision set out in the immediately preceding paragraph :—

*solium*, *Taenia*, Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) **1** : 819

*Taenia* Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) **1** : 819

8. The decision taken in the present case was reported to, and approved by, the Section on Nomenclature of the Thirteenth International Congress of Zoology, Paris, 1948, at its Sixth Meeting held on Monday, 26th July 1948 (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **5** : 120).

9. The Ruling given in the present *Opinion* was concurred in by the sixteen (16) Commissioners and Alternate Commissioners present at the Paris Session of the International Commission, namely :—

Beltrán *vice* Cabrera ; Boschma ; Bradley ; di Caporiacco ; Hemming ; Hindle *vice* Jordan ; Jorge *vice* do Amaral ; Kirby *vice* Stoll ; Lemche *vice* Dymond ; Mansour *vice* Hankó ; Metcalf *vice* Peters ; Riley *vice* Calman ; Rode ; Spärck *vice* Mortensen ; van Straelen *vice* Richter ; Usinger *vice* Vokes.

10. The Ruling given in the present *Opinion* was dissented from by no Commissioner or Alternate Commissioner present at the Paris Session.



11. At the time of the adoption of the Ruling given in the present *Opinion*, the expression prescribed for the second portion of the binomen which constitutes the scientific name of a species was the expression "trivial name" and the *Official List* reserved for recording such names was styled the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology*, the word "trivial" appearing also in the title of the *Official Index* reserved for recording rejected and invalid names of this category. Under a decision taken by the Fourteenth International Congress of Zoology, Copenhagen, 1953, the expression "specific name" was substituted for the expression "trivial name" and corresponding changes were made in the titles of the *Official List* and *Official Index* of such names (1953, *Copenhagen Decisions zool. Nomencl.* : 21). The changes in terminology so adopted have been incorporated in the Ruling given in the present *Opinion*.

12. The prescribed procedures were duly complied with by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature in dealing with the present case, and the present *Opinion* is accordingly hereby rendered in the name of the said International Commission by the under-signed Francis Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, in virtue of all and every the powers conferred upon him in that behalf.

13. The present *Opinion* shall be known as *Opinion Two Hundred and Seventy-Two (272)* of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature.

DONE in London, this Twelfth day of January, Nineteen Hundred and Fifty-Four.

*Secretary to the International Commission  
on Zoological Nomenclature*

**FRANCIS HEMMING**